

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY M/CT:RMYERS:LMB

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M - CEMCMANAWAY

S/S: A. OTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236822 TOSEC 270687

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE GROUP DEMANDS FOR HOSTAGE RELEASE

REF; NICOSIA 2946

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER RECEIVED
BY AMEMBASSY NICOSIA MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22 AT 1230 HOURS.
BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR EXCELLENCY: YOUR CORRESPONDENT IS THE R.H.A.I.L.
ORGANIZATION. WE ARE HOLDING AS HOSTAGES 47 PERSONS;
29 CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND 18 CITIZENS
FROM VARIOUS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THESE HOSTAGES
ARE PRESENTLY IN GOOD HEALTH AND LACK NOTHING, THAT WHICH
IS NOT THE CASE FOR TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE FOR WHOM WE ARE
RESPONSIBLE AND WHO, BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON,
FIND THEMSELVES WITHOUT HOMES AND WITHOUT RESOURCES. WE
PROMISE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO TREAT THESE HOSTAGES WELL IF
YOUR EXCELLENCY IS GOOD ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT....OUR FOLLOW-
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ING DEMANDS:

1. YOU MUST PREPARE \$6,295,000 IN USED BILLS WITH NUMBERS OF DIFFERENT SERIES AND DENOMINATIONS OF 5, 10, 20, 50 AND 100 DOLLARS. THIS MONEY, WHICH MUST BE PUT IN TOURIST SUITCASES, MUST PREVIOUSLY BE PLACED BY BUNDLES IN A WATERPROOF WRAPPING.
 2. THE SUITCASES CONTAINING THE MONEY SHOULD BE PUT TOGETHER IN A HOUSE IN EAST BEIRUT (AREA CONTROLLED BY THE CHRISTIANS) WITH A SINGLE YOUNG LADY USED FOR THE DELIVERY. THIS YOUNG LADY SHOULD RESPOND TO THE CODE NAME "JANE." JANE SHOULD KNOW HOW TO SWIM (YES, SWIM) AND SHE SHOULD HAVE HER BATHING SUIT AND HER SWIMMING GEAR. SHE SHOULD HAVE A CAR WITH A LEBANESE LICENSE PLATE AND MUST NOT CARRY ANY FIREARMS DURING THE DELIVERY.
 3. THE CAR, THE GIRL, AND THE SUITCASES CONTAINING THE MONEY SHOULD NOT BE FURNISHED WITH ANY SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION, THAT IS TO SAY, IF AT ONE OF THE CONTROLS THAT WE WILL CARRY OUT IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THE CAR (OR) THE SUITCASES, CONTAIN, OR JANE HAS ON HER PERSON, ANY KIND OF SYSTEM OF TRANSMISSION WHATSOEVER, OUR DEAL WILL BE VOID AND OUR PRICE WILL DOUBLE. PLEASE READ PARAGRAPH 6. JANE WILL BE CONTACTED BY THE METHOD ENUMERATED IN PARAGRAPH 5.
 4. IT IS REQUIRED THAT A LETTER BE AFFIXED TO ONE OF THE PACKETS THAT IS SIGNED BY OFFICIALS STATING THAT THIS MONEY IS A GIFT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN LEBANON.
 5. IN ORDER TO PREPARE THIS, YOU HAVE 48 HOURS BEGINNING WITH THE HOUR THAT YOU RECEIVE OUR LETTER. THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW YOU MUST PUT IN THE "PETITES ANNONCES" SECTION OF "AN-NHAR" AND "AL-ANWAR" THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT "ITALIAN PASSPORT LOST, NUMBER 793246. PLEASE CONTACT . " IN THIS BLANK YOU SHOULD PUT THE ACTUAL TELEPHONE NUMBER AT WHICH ONE CAN CONTACT "JANE IN BEIRUT EAST (ACHRAFIE)." THE INQUIRER TO WHOM SHE SHOULD REPLY IS NAMED "BOB." SHE SHOULD CARRY OUT THESE DIRECTIVES TO THE LETTER. JANE MUST BE ALONE. HER SE-
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- CURITY IS GUARANTEED.
6. ANY DELAY EXCEEDING 48 HOURS COULD COST THE HOSTAGES THEIR RIGHT HAND; WE LIKE SURGERY. AFTER THE RIGHT HANDS, THERE ARE THE LEFT HANDS, THEN THE EARS, THE EYES AND SO ON.
 7. WE DO NOT LIKE PUBLICITY, THEREFORE NOT A WORD TO

THE PRESS AND WE REMIND YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT WE HAVE EARS EVERYWHERE WITHIN THE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN LEBANON, WHETHER THEY BE OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT, AND THAT ANY INDISCRETION, INCLUDING (ONE) OUTSIDE LEBANON, COULD COST A LIMB OR AN ORGAN FROM THE HOSTAGES.

8. THE HOSTAGES ARE SOMEWHERE IN LEBANON DIVIDED INTO 3 GROUPS IN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE "PROGRESSIVES" IN THE LOCATION OF THE HOSTAGES. IF ONE OF THEM IS BOTHERED DURING THE DEAL OUR SURGEONS WILL HAVE WORK TO DO.

9. SHOULD EVERYTHING BE CARRIED OUT NORMALLY, AND ONCE THE MONEY COMES TO US BY OUR MEN FROM EAST BEIRUT, WE WILL COMMUNICATE TO THEM A STATEMENT THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE TO JANE SO THAT SHE CAN PLACE IT IN THE ABOVE-CITED NEWS-PAPERS AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT, ONCE IT HAS COME OUT, WILL HAVE THE HOSTAGES FREED BY OUR MAN IN GROUPS OF 5 EVERY 48 HOURS. IN THE MEANTIME, AS A BONUS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE SECRET ABOUT THE TWO ACCIDENTS AT MILDENHALL AND STROMFJORD.

10. IN THE OPPOSITE CASE, WE WILL BE FORCED TO EXECUTE 5 HOSTAGES EVERY 48 HOURS. WE WILL SEND YOU THEIR EARS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE DO NOT LIKE VIOLENCE BUT EVEN AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WOULD SACRIFICE 47 IN ORDER TO SAVE TWENTY THOUSAND. DO NOT PUSH US. SIGNED: R.H.A.I.L.
END QUOTE.

2. RETURN ADDRESS ON OUTSIDE OF ENVELOPE IS ROM HABLES ARBOZER INSTITUTION, P.O. BOX LEBANON, LARNACA, CYPRUS. BACK OF ENVELOPE ALSO STAMPED: HAWANA TRAVEL AND TOURISM, JOUNIEH BRANCH, TEL. 93084, HAWANA, ALWAYS AHEAD; ROBINSON

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